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COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany REPORT

TOPIC Political Attitude of the Population in Lower Silesia

50X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 26 April 195[illegible]

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Most of the few Germans still living in Lower Silesia, under conditions termed poor, but bearable, refused to join the Polska Zjednoczona Partja Robotnicza (Polish United Workers' Party) (PZPR) because they feared that as members of that party they would be considered Polish Communists in the event of a later readjustment of the international boundary. At the same time, the Poles who came to Lower Silesia from Poland proper also had misgivings about joining the party, prompted by fear of reprisals in the event of possible future political changes. Even most of the Polish employers who, in execution of instructions issued to them, attempted to persuade their workmen to join the party were not PZPR members themselves.

2. Despite the definitely pro-Communist Polish press and radio propaganda to which they were continually exposed, the Polish people, as well as the Germans still living in Lower Silesia, were comparatively well informed of the international political situation, because nearly all of those in possession of radio sets listened to the American news broadcasts. Such American information was quickly disseminated, particularly by discussion at places of employment, in spite of all the risks involved.

3. The population in Lower Silesia, both German and Polish, was haunted by the Bezpieka, the Polish secret police (UB), which often raided even the most remote villages in search of weapons and anti-Communist propaganda literature.

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